

# THE IRISH BOOK LOVER

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VOL. X.

JAN., FEB., MAR., 1919.

Nos. 6, 7, 8.

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## WILLIAM BARRY.

The ephemeral nature of the journalist's work and the rule of anonymity, once on a time more prevalent than now, consigns to oblivion many a rare gem of literature, and robs many a writer of well-merited posthumous fame. This trite remark, trite but true, is frequently exemplified, and never more so, perhaps, than in the case of the writer, whose name heads this paper, a name doubtless that signifies little or nothing to the readers of these pages. His simple story is that of dozens of clever young Irishmen who have plunged into the maelstrom of literary London in search of fame and fortune, flourished for a while, and then "gone under," their names writ in water. Yet, in a sense, fame has come to him. He lives in the pages of a popular novel, for William Barry is Willy Fitzgerald, the hero of William Black's fine novel, "Shandon Bells." The latter's biographer tells us that the writing of that novel "was as much a labour of love on Black's part as any task that he ever undertook. The memory of the brilliant young Irishman who had been his friend and companion during some of the most eventful years of his life, was already fading. It was only the faithful few who still held him in remembrance, and looked back with mingled pleasure and pain to the days when their cheery companion was still with them. I need not say that Black was one of the faithful. For many a year there hung above his table in his workroom a large photograph of Barry. It hung there whilst 'Shandon Bells' was being written; and in that story Black drew the picture—idealised, of course, but still in its essence true—of the man he had known and loved; and talking of the book afterwards, he always spoke as though Willie Fitzgerald, the hero, and Barry were identical. It was the monument of his friend that he thus raised with infinite care and delicacy, and with the keenest desire that the world should see the dead man as he had seen him, with the partial eyes of affection. When the book was finished, he prefaced it with the following dedication: 'To the memory of the Author of 'Moorland and Stream,' 'Sporting Sketches and Holiday Rambles,' and other writings; and to the memory of a long and intimate friendship; this book which has been largely coloured by both, is affectionately, but now aimlessly dedicated.' Black seldom dedicated a volume, and this, penned years after Barry's death, furnished the strongest evidence of the place which his old friend had secured in his affections. To those who knew both men it is a pleasure now to think that they were knit together with a love passing that of brothers." The same writer (Sir T. Wemyss Reid) further tells us "No one who knew William Barry could be surprised by Black's affection for him. He had the

wit and the sympathy characteristic of the Celtic temperament whilst he was happily free from the strain of melancholy which sometimes accompanies that temperament. He had a touch of genius. He was an enthusiastic student of nature, and he was a most loyal friend. It was not a bad thing for Black that he should have the friendship and companionship of such a man as Barry. The simplicity of character and love of harmless fun which distinguished Barry made him an admirable companion. I think that his friend Barry helped him not a little at a time when it would have been easy for a man to fall a victim to the intoxication of bewildering success. If Barry helped Black in those days the latter nobly repaid the debt a few years later when he watched over Barry on his death-bed like a brother, and ministered to him to the end."

This is the genesis of the story. There were very few men who had secured a more lasting hold upon Black's affections than Barry, and ever since the death of the latter his old comrade had been thinking of making him the subject of one of his stories. Black had only known Barry; however, during his life in London as a journalist and literary freelance, and it was necessary that he should acquaint himself with the scenery in which his early life was spent in order to provide a proper setting for the novel. Accordingly he went to the South of Ireland towards the close of May, 1881, to view the scenery which he afterwards so finely described in the book. Writing to a friend from Glengarriff on 1st June, he says "I am thinking of describing a young Irishman's fight through journalism in London. I have enjoyed this South of Ireland trip immensely. I like the people, the scenery is lovely and the weather superb. So what better do you think I can do than call my next novel by way of gratitude 'Shandon Bells?'" The novel ran through "Harper's Magazine" during 1882, achieving a great and immediate success. It was republished in the orthodox three-volume form in the following year, and in one volume many times since. It was to Black what "In Memoriam" was to Tennyson, no dramatic performance but the loving memorial to a lost friend.

The following are the few facts concerning William Barry now to be gleaned. He was born in 1841, the son of an inn-keeper (if the novel is to be trusted) and served his apprenticeship to journalism on one of the Cork papers. He migrated to Dublin and thence to London in 1865 to succeed Wm. Black as editor of "The London Review," a weekly paper afterwards merged in "The Examiner." The late E. D. J. Wilson, of "The Times," another eminent Corkonian, remembered him, "a good-looking, modest, young fellow under middle height," at the pleasant gatherings in Justin McCarthy's house in 1866-7, and the latter speaks of him in the "Daily News Jubilee Volume," as follows: "Mr. William Barry, who was making a rapid way into literature and journalism until his bright lamp was all too early quenched by death. Mr. Barry came up to London from Ireland absolutely unknown, and in a very short time became editor of a high-class weekly newspaper, and a frequent contributor to the columns of the 'Daily News.' He



acted indeed for a short time as its Special Correspondent in Paris at the time when the fall of Sedan brought about the upset of the French Empire. He was the author of a very charming book called 'Moorland and Stream,' all about hunting and coursing, and fishing and mountain streams and lakes and sunlight and stars, which had a remarkable success in its day.'

About 1870 he contributed to the "Pall Mall Gazette" several fine "Pictures from an Irish Moorland," republished in his first volume; and in "Macmillan's Magazine" for Jan., 1872, we find an interesting article from his pen on "Current Street Ballads of Ireland," which Black in the novel describes Willy Fitzgerald as writing. In 1873 on Black's recommendation Barry was appointed Chief London Correspondent to the "Leeds Mercury," and just when, having surmounted all his difficulties, his feet secure and his prospects at their rosier, his health, never robust, entirely failed, and he became a chronic invalid. Black generously did all his press work for him, and assiduously ministered to all his wants during his long illness.

Barry died of consumption, at the age of 34 years, in lodgings at 23 Crowhurst Road, Brixton, on 11th April, 1875, his brother Michael being present, and more than a quarter of a century afterwards (1902) Sir T. Wemyss Reid could write of him in words that recall Carlyle's tribute to John Sterling—as "that bright young Irishman who has left tender memories in the hearts of all who knew him."

The writer of the obituary notice in his old journal, "The Daily News," most probably Black, says: "His essays are remarkable for the union of enthusiasm for the gun and the rod, with a keen and delicate perception of natural beauty, a genial humour, and no ordinary literary ability and cultivation. Mr. Barry's amiable temper, his quick sense of the ludicrous, his readiness and liveliness in conversation, and his companionable disposition won him many friends, none of whom he lost. The unfailing patience and cheerfulness with which he bore a long and painful illness, the end of which he distinctly foresaw, were admirable. During the last few weeks his life had been little else than a distressing struggle for existence against wearing disease."

William Barry's literary legacy consists of two volumes, "Moorland and Stream," 8vo., pp. viii. + 299 (Tinsley), 1871, and "Sporting Rambles and Holiday Papers," 8vo., pp. iv. + 262 (Routledge), 1873. This is according to the title page, though the picture boards by "Phiz" name it as in Black's dedication. In these he has done for Southern Ireland what White did for Selborne and Richard Jeffreys for the Wiltshire downs, placing on record vivid pictures of men, manners and scenery seldom surpassed. When his first book was published the author chanced to be living in Sloane Street, Chelsea, and in order to distinguish him from other writers of the same name he is so described in the catalogue of the British Museum. It surely seems a cruel irony of fate that he, filled with enthusiastic love for Ireland and all things Irish, should go down to posterity as "William Barry, of Sloane Street, London."

## WATERFORD'S "MAGNA CHARTA."

On July 24th, 1821, the Waterford Corporation resolved that "on the arrival of His Majesty King George IV. in Ireland Mr. Mayor (Samuel King) be requested to call a Council for the purpose of taking into consideration the proper mode of expressing our congratulations on the Joyful Occasion and presenting a suitable Address." On August 21st the proposed Address—a document of the usual ultra-loyal type—was read to the members of the Council by the Right Hon. Sir John Newport. It was unanimously resolved to have the Address engrossed and to authorize the Mayor, the two Sheriffs, the Right Hon. Sir John Newport, and Councillor Wallace to go to Dublin and present the Address to His Majesty. It was also "resolved" that a copy of the Great Charter of Waterford City should be presented, with the Address, to King George. The Resolution concluded with the following words: "And no other person shall be permitted or allowed to accompany them"—the Mayor, Sheriffs, etc.—"on the occasion." On September 12th at a meeting of the Council it was reported to the assembled City Fathers that the King had received the deputation in Dublin, and that the Address had been presented in person to His Majesty, "who was greatly pleased to receive the same."

It will be observed that nothing was said about the copy of the Great Charter of Waterford City.

Recently I have examined a copy of "The Great Charter" which has on the first inside page of cover the following inscription:—"Presented with Profound Respect by the Corporation of the City of Waterford to his most Gracious Majesty King George, August, 1821."

The English title page is:—The Great Charter of the Liberties of the City of Waterford, Transcribed band, translated into English, with Explanatory Notes, Humbly Inscribed to the Corporation of that City, by Timothy Cunningham. Dublin: Printed by Augustus Long in Essex Street, 1752.

The Latin text runs to 104 pages; the English version to 123 pages. Across the Latin title page is the signature of "R. Cooke," who was Town Clerk of Waterford in the year 1821.

The book is at present in possession of a Waterford gentleman who resides in Limerick. He purchased it in 1880 at an auction of the effects of the late Henry Vincent Mackesy, of Catherine Street, Waterford, who was a son-in-law of the "R. Cooke" whose name appears in the book.

It would seem as if—for some reason not explained—the volume remained in possession of Mr. Cooke and was not presented to King George IV. Possibly the resolution of the Corporation that "no other person shall be permitted or allowed to accompany the Mayor, Sheriffs, etc., on the occasion," of the presenting of the Address piqued the Town Clerk and that he retained possession of the copy of "The Great Charter of Waterford," which was originally intended to form an addition to the library of King George IV.

The English version of Waterford's "Magna Charta" was reprinted at the Waterford News Printing Works in 1881 "by order of the Corporation of Waterford."

EDMUND DOWNEY.



## PRINTING IN MONAGHAN, 1830—1900.

1830. Election Address, etc. E. J. Shirley. August 10th. (Robinson & Son.) A Broadside. (Rev. R. S. Maffett.)
1832. A Few Observations on Malignant Cholera with a short sketch of the disease as it appeared in Monaghan. Richard Maffett (Robinson & Son.) 8vo., 19pp. and 1 p. (blank). Folds in fives. (Rev. R. S. Maffett.)
1835. The Spiritual Rose, or Method of saying the Rosaries, etc., etc. (Greacen.) 24mo. ( $5\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{5}{8}$ ), 118pp. Roman type. (T. C. D.; S. Ua Casaide; R.I.A.) Note.—Revised Edition with additions, in Roman character.
1839. January 12th to 1900 The Northern Standard. Saturdays, No. 1, Vol. 1, etc. 4pp., 5 cols. each Price 5d. A. W. Holmes, Prop., 1 Market Str.) (Brit.Mus./N.) "The Northern Standard is the only newspaper that was printed in the County Monaghan for nearly forty years."—Sell's Dic. of World's Press, 1888.
1845. The Catechism of the Church of England broken into Short Questions, etc. (Printed for J. A. Ross.) 18mo., 34pp. Paper cover. (Rev. R. S. Maffett; E. R. McC. Dix.)
1846. The First Report of the Monaghan Literary Society for the year 1845; also The Address of the Rev. T. R. Robinson, D.D., Astronomer of Armagh, M.R.I.A., delivered at the opening of the Society on the Fourth day of July, 1845. (Printed at the "Northern Standard" Office by A. W. Holmes.) 8vo., viii. and 20pp. (Dr. Whitla, Monaghan; Nat. Liby., Dublin (Joly).)
1846. Printers, Nathaniel Greacen, Diamond; Arthur Wellington Holmes, Mill Street, and Joseph Robinson, Diamond. (Vide Slater's Directory for this year.)
1847. The Fall of Antichrist and especially the prospects of the British Empire. The Rev. William Gibson, some time Minister of the Gospel in Coronery, Co. Cavan. (Robt. Greacen, Diamond.) 12mo., 34pp. (Magee College, Derry.)
1848. Report of the County Monaghan Infirmary for one year ending Jan., 1848. (Robinson.) (The Registrar, Monaghan Co. Infirmary.)
1854. Rules and Regulations for the Government of a County Gaol by the Inspectors-General of Prisons. (John Holmes.) 8vo., 48pp. (Rev. R. S. Maffett.)
- 1872 and 1873. Our School Times. Vol. I., No. 1, July 1st. No. 3, Oct. 1st; No. Dec. 2nd; to No. 7, April, 1873. No. 9, May, 1873. 12pp. to each No. and 2 vols. to a page. (A. & W. Somers, Market St.) (E. R. McC. Dix.)
- 1873 and 1874. Vol. II. 9 Nos. (A. & W. Somers.) (E. R. McC. Dix.)
- 1874 and 1875. Ditto. Vol. III.; No. 1, December, 1874; No. 2, January, 1875. 2 Nos. (A. & W. Somers); 7 Nos. (Printed at the Argus General Printing Establishment. The Diamond.) (E. R. McC. Dix.)

1876. Ditto. Vol. IV., 4 Nos. (Printed at the Argus, etc., as above.) (E. R. McC. Dix.)
- 1875 to 1881. The Argus, No. 1, Vol. I., Friday, 1st January, 1875; price 1½d., 4pp., 6 cols. (David Wood, The Diamond.) B. M.
- 1876 to 1900. The People's Advocate and Monaghan, Fermanagh and Tyrone News. No. 1, Vol. I., 19th February, price 1d.; 8pp., 5 cols. (Daniel MacAleese, Hill Street). B. M.
1881. Lord Blayney's Charity. Scheme for Regulation of, etc. (Printed at "The Northern Standard" Office.) 8vo., 8pp., and printed cover. (E. R. McC. Dix.)
1888. The Northern Standard, Saturdays, 1d. (Wm. Swan, proprietor, The Diamond.) Sell's "Dic. World's Press," 1888.

E. R. McC. DIX.

### GREAT IRISH BOOK COLLECTORS.

#### SIR JOHN T. GILBERT.

Sir John Gilbert (1829-1898) was more fortunate than the other collectors we have dealt with, inasmuch as his library has not been scattered to the ends of the earth, but, thanks to the munificence and public spirit of the Dublin Corporation, it remains intact in the city of his birth, an enduring memorial to his taste, energy and skill, and a mine of wealth to future students. For nearly half a century he was a most assiduous collector, his books were his working tools, and after his death Lady Gilbert, desirous of retaining them intact, offered them for sale to the City Fathers. Messrs. Lyster and O'Donoghue were commissioned to report upon the collection, which they did, valuing it at £2 500, the amount subsequently paid for it.

The books comprising the Gilbert Library are, in general, in the finest condition, many uncut and many bound in the highest style of Dublin workmanship, forming the best Irish library ever formed by a private individual in Ireland. One of its important features is a wonderful series of old Dublin newspapers from 1700 till 1727, comprising nearly a hundred papers, from a single number to long runs. There is a fine collection of eighteenth century pamphlets, bound in many volumes, once the property of Sir Edward Newenham, M.P., chiefly on political and economic subjects, with many similar ephemeral productions from the pen of Swift and Lucas. Memoirs of noted wits and beaux, actors and actresses abound, and the collection of plays by Irish writers printed in Dublin or provincial towns is unrivalled. Of books about Dublin there is almost a complete collection, which he used in the preparation of his well-known "History," of which there is a copy bound up into six folio volumes, annotated and enlarged. Many other volumes relate to family history and genealogy; there is a curious collection of street ballads, some rare privately printed books, and a large variety of literature dealing with the Commonwealth period and the days of Ormonde and Marlborough. Of so-called "association



books" there are many, such as Molyneux's presentation copy of the "Case Stated," to his brother, and Dr. Johnson's copy of Henry Brooke's works. Of extra illustrated books one may mention Prior's "Malone"; Kirkman's "Macklin"; and Phillips' "Curran," besides a curious collection of prints and caricatures relating to O'Connell.

Gilbert, as his works prove, was a keen student of Irish books printed on the continent, so we find several such works, unknown to bibliographers. There is Beling's work on Irish affairs in Latin, a black-letter law book by Richard Bellew, a Louthman, and a tract in Italian printed in 1596 recounting the defeat of the brothers Norris in the previous year. Several lives of St. Patrick and St. Malachy from early continental presses are preserved, as well as a collection of works written and published by Irish scholars abroad, the title pages of which boldly proclaim to the world that the author was "Hibernus." O'Kelly de Aghrim's encyclopedic work, Vienna (1734) and John O'Dwyer's "Querela Medica" (1686) are both included. Of MSS. there is a copy of the Borlase Correspondence, a Catalogue of the Carte Papers, and a transcript in 20 vols. of the Memoirs of Rinuccini; whilst three bulky vols. of letters addressed to Dr. Caulfield, of Cork, will interest antiquaries. Some secret service papers of 1798 have been published, but O'Reilly's translation of the "Annals of Innisfallen" still remain in MS. The note books of Judge Robinson and Thomas Sheridan possess much interest, as do the letters of J. C. Walker (of the "Irish Bards"). The writings of Robert Ware may be of little historic value, but the same cannot be said of the eight vols. of Monck Mason's materials for his contemplated history of Dublin, nor Sir James Ware's "Collectanea," save where they are interpolated by his said son. Gilbert, not being an Irish scholar, did not apparently care much for Gaelic MSS. Hence these are few.

Enough has been said to show the worth of this great collection for which Irish students everywhere should be grateful to the Dublin Corporation. Now that the war is over and normal conditions soon again to prevail, nothing remains but to urge the Libraries Committee of the Corporation to print the catalogue and have the books rendered available to readers at the earliest possible moment.

#### EDWARD EVANS.

It is worth while to place on record in "I.B.L." a brief notice of this industrious Irish antiquary, who for many years did useful work in historical research, and especially in investigations into the History of Dublin. For many years he lived in the Corn Market, Dublin, where he had a small shop. Finally he abandoned business and devoted himself entirely to antiquarian research. He had formed large and valuable collection of books, and I have two catalogues of their sale by auction. One of these sales took place during his life-time, the other after his death, which occurred on Feb. 23rd, 1901, at the age of 70. In the "Irish Builder," extending over many years, appeared a number of most valuable publications, of the most notable of which I append a list:—

"Bishop Bedell's Irish Bible and Archbishop O'Donnell's New Testament" (1601-5), brief historical sketches of both works, with biographical notices of each author. (Dublin, 1895.)

"Historical and Bibliographical Account of Almanacks, Directories, etc., etc., Published in Ireland from the 16th Century," Dublin, 1897. [Evans did not candidly acknowledge in this compilation the fact that he obtained much of his information from John McCall's MS., "History of Irish Almanacks."]

"History of Dublin Hospitals and Infirmaries from 1188 to the Present Time, 1896-8."

"History and Annals of the Churches and Parishes of St. Nicholas Within, St. Michael the Archangel, and St. Michan's Roman Catholic Church," 1889-93.

"History of Fourteen of the Ancient Guilds of Dublin," 1894.

"Trim, Its Ecclesiastical Ruins, Its Castles, etc." (Dublin, 1886.)

"A Descriptive List of all the Rivers of Ireland." (Not printed, a MS. of 240 pp.)

"Description of the Shrine of St. Lachtin." (Dublin, 1886.)

At the sale of his books after his death, 18 volumes of his notebooks were sold by J. W. Sullivan. D. J. O'D.

#### ASSOCIATION BOOKS.

I have a volume of Vallencey's "Collectanea" containing Nos. 10, 11 and 12 which would appear to have been used by Sir T. A. Larcom and John O'Donovan. No. 10 bears on the title page the signature "Thos. A. Larcom, 1828," and No. 11 contains several manuscript notes, mostly derogatory, in John O'Donovan's handwriting, signed "J. O'D." This number contains Beauford's "Ancient Topography of Ireland," and O'Donovan would seem to have had no patience with Beauford's theories. For instance, on page 329, where Beauford discusses "Dalharuidhe," there is a note, "This is all trash, J. O'D.," and at the end of page 363 he writes, "Such etymological lunacy should be condemned and censored, J.O'D." In other cases he contents himself with writing "Stuff!" and there are also a number of explanatory notes of his own, and some relative extracts from other writers.

P. S. O'HEGARTY.

Fifty years ago there was no better-known reading book in the senior classes of the National schools of Ireland, and indeed in some of the higher grade ones, than the "Biographical Sketches of Eminent British Poets from Chaucer to Burns," 12mo., pp. 508; Dublin, 1849, printed by A. Thom. The sketches, 63 in number, are cleverly and sympathetically executed, and I often wondered which of the Commissioners' scribes was responsible for them. I have recently obtained a copy which throws a little light upon the subject. It is inscribed "Rev'd. Joseph D. Smith, with the respects of M. Cross, the Editor of the work, 27th Novr., 1849." The name of Maurice Cross has long been familiar to me, though I know few biographical details concerning



him. I have heard that he was an Englishman who first came to Belfast as teacher in the school founded in Frederick Street to educate the young on the system suggested by Joseph Lancaster, and hence called the Lancasterian Schools. He threw himself with great zest into the political agitation preceding the great Reform Bill of 1832, and no name appears more frequently in the reports of the meetings of that stormy time. He was President of the Belfast Historic Society, the training-ground of many orators in the northern city, and his presidential address was printed in 1827. He edited "A Selection of the Best Articles in the 'Edinburgh Review' with Explanations and Notes," 4 vols., London; and 6 vols., Paris, 1835-36. He was appointed Secretary to the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland, and as such had to issue "a threatening letter" to the teachers who joined the Confederation in the stirring times of Young Ireland. The recipient of the book, Joseph Denham Smith, was a well-known Congregational Minister first at Newry and then at Kingstown. He was the author of many hymns and religious works such as "The Irish Harp Upon the Willows (1844); "Connemara: Past and Present," 1853; and "Times of Refreshing," 1860. His son, J. W. Gilbert-Smith, is well known as the author of "The Log o' the Norseman" and other poetical works.

J. S. C.

I recently acquired a copy of "Recollections of the Life of John O'Keeffe," written by himself, in two volumes (London, 1826). On pages 44-45 (Vol. I.) O'Keeffe writes interestingly of Councillor Leonard MacNally, as he knew him; and the following note, by a former owner of the book, in neat handwriting, I found at bottom of page 45: "McNally was still at the Bar, when I was called. He was a vulgar, low-bred, impudent man, and had a good deal of inferior business, both criminal and civil—he was lame and ill-looking. The L.L. (Lieut Lieutenant) was at his play of 'Robin Hood' the evening Lord Edward Fitzgerald was taken."

O' Keeffe, on page 191 (Vol. I.), writes: "When at this place (Londonderry, 1768) I drew a portait of the Bishop of Derry's female infant in her cradle, "To which the marginal note reads:—"The Bishop, afterwards Earl of Bristol, was translated to Derry in 1768—I suppose the baby must have been Lady Liverpool." On page 251 (Vol. I.) reference is made to Lord Drogheda, and note on margin adds: "He died in 1822, aged 92." On page 258 (Vol. I.) O'Keeffe, in describing Lord Charlemont, said "he had very high, thin eye-brows," and note says "thick," by way of correction. On page 36 (Vol. II.) O'Keeffe speaks of the singing of Miss Dewitzer as Rosetta in "Love in a Village." The note in margin adds, "She was afterwards the mistress of my old friend Cuffe, Lord Tyrawley, and the mother of Col. Cuffe, M.P. for—I forget where." On page 42 (Vol. II.) the author refers to Richard Daly, the Dublin theatrical manager, and note says "I knew him, a very handsome, pompous, blundering fellow—a mouthing, actor. He was for many

years manager in Dublin and in private a respectable man." On page 45 (Vol. II.) O'Keeffe writes of "Mr. John Taylor, of Hatton Garden, my good and ingenious friend, who has so often obliged me by writing a prologue and an epilogue for my pieces," and the note at bottom of page reads, "I knew him too after I came to the Admiralty (Admiralty)—he was Editor of the 'Sun,' then in our party—a good natured, gossiping creature—but I had no time to gossip. He was full of stories of the preceding age, and had some toleration." O'Keeffe says on page 310 (Vol. II.) that "Roch was a most excellent actor in the Irish character." The note at the foot of the page reads: "Roch I have seen—he was a poor actor in any way, and when I saw him play Irishmen had attained what few Irishmen can—the loss of the accent." This note is signed "J. W. C., 1845."

O'Keeffe, on page 363 (Vol. II.) tells of some comedies he wrote in 1807, 1808, and 1809, which await production, and remarks "until then, they sleep in my desk," and adds, "I hope no wit will parody on them, the two pencil lines on the tomb in Westminster Abbey, where the man is shoving himself into the world again, because the angel blows the trumpet above:—

'Sleep on if you 're wise, etc.,'

"The sequel is—

"You'll be damned if you rise,"

adds the writer of the notes.

I have little doubt that the writer is none other than John Wilson Croker, author of "Familiar Epistles" (1804).

JOSEPH HOLLOWAY.

#### TALBOT PRESS PUBLICATIONS.

We question if any Irish publishing house, since publishing first began, ever issued from its portals such a number of works in all classes of literature as did the Talbot Press last year; and their quality is equal to their quantity. Undeterred by dearth of material, scarcity of labour or the censor's ban, this firm continues to encourage writers, neophytes and veterans, thus playing a great part in the wonderful outflowing of the literary genius of our land that has been so marked within the past few years. To print all we could say in praise of the noble row of their volumes displayed before us would occupy a whole number. So to our great regret regret we are obliged to curtail our notices, and can only urge our readers to buy them all and judge for themselves.

Mr. Bernard Duffy forsaking the drama for the time being, has given us in "Oriol" (7s.) a charming, an idyllic romance, as far removed from the pernicious problem novel of the day as mid-day sun from mid-night darkness. The "Professor" who plays a prominent part, is a kind-hearted itinerant quack, a delightful and original creation, with whom, and the hero, a foundling, one rambles through the midlands or joins the strolling players at the fairs. The plot is ingenious, the secret well sustained, and the characters life-like.



On the whole a remarkable first essay in fiction. In marked contrast to its pleasant rural scenes is the locale of Miss K. F. Purdon's first long novel, "Dinny of the Doorstep" (6s.), which reveals the awful squalor of the Dublin slums and the pitiful shifts of the dwellers therein to eke out existence. These are told with a force and truthfulness that makes one wonder how the poor endure so patiently and so long. A pleasant love-story relieves the sombreness of this thought-compelling book, and we reach the happy ending with admiration for Dinny and his sister Brigeen, brave poor things, and Mrs. Molally their protector. Lord Dunsany's "Tales of War" (5s.) present a series of graphic pen pictures of the great struggle now happily ended, written with the clarity of an observant participant and a verve that has placed the author in the forefront of modern prose writers. In "Wrack and other Stories" (3s. 6d.), by Dermot O'Byrne, we have some half-dozen stories and sketches of the past and present, remarkably well done. Of the former, "The Fury of the O'Flahertys" appeals to us most, and of the latter "Before the Dawn," which relates how a fuddled railway porter confused the late C.O.I.R. with the author of "Insurrections," and what followed thereon.

Mr. Forrest Reid has collected some scattered contributions to many periodicals into a volume—"A Garden by the Sea" (3s. 6d.)—dedicated to the memory of his friend, Lieut. S. J. Ireland, "killed in action." Tragedy and comedy, humour and pathos, pervade his pages. The sketches are brief, the style is excellent, and the volume can be perused with pleasure. Things have certainly come to a pretty pass in the world of letters when we find that four essays, two of them dealing with such world-famed writers as Francis Thompson and George Meredith, and all of which have already appeared in England or America, when collected into book form have to run the gauntlet of the Irish censor! Yet such has been the experience of Mr. Darrell Figgis's "Bye-Ways of Study" (4s. 6d.) Well, all we can say is that if Lord Decies has read the book, he has had an intellectual treat, for the author is one of the finest literary critics of the day, and it contains two of his best samples. The opening essay on "Parnell" is a whole-hearted attempt to vindicate that leader, and an outpouring of unmitigated scorn on the late Mr. Gladstone. The Preface, dated from Durham Jail, tells us that the original proofs of the concluding essay "For Demand of Peace," "were corrected hastily near midnight while men with revolvers stood over me." An interesting incident for some future compiler of "Curiosities of Literature." In "The Glamour of Dublin" (3s. 6d.) Mr. D. L. Kay has introduced a new note into guide-book literature of the nature of a flash-light photograph or thumb-nail impressionist sketch. You approach a building, be it house, church or jail. In a few graphic sentences he pictures for you some notable incident or exciting scene once enacted therein, and it lives again—Vanessa at Celbridge; James II. in Dublin Castle; Larkin and Connolly in Liberty Hall; John Mitchel in Green Street

court-house; and Alfred Harmsworth at Inchicore School; they are all there, and dozens of others. A slap-dash but very clever performance. It seems the censor has been at work here also, but the few peccant lines omitted are given in full in the pages of a leading London weekly, "and nobody seems a penny the worse"! In "Dublin Types Drawn by Sydney Davies" (5s.) we have some capital reproductions of clever chalk drawings of many familiar denizens of Dublin done to the life. The Introduction and accompanying Notes bear no author's name, but they are as clever in their way as the drawings which they so admirably describe.

The appearance of "James Fintan Lalor, Patriot and Political Essayist" (5s.), edited by Miss Lily Fogarty, gives evidence of renewed interest in the writings of a remarkable man, who, strangely enough, remained in obscurity whilst the agrarian revolution of which he was the apostle, was guided to victory by leaders of a later generation. It is not for us to express any opinion upon the soundness or unsoundness of Lalor's political or economic theories, but there can be only one opinion as to the force and fire in every line of his writings. Miss Fogarty has done her work well. Following some prefatory pages by Arthur Griffith, she contributes a valuable introduction which makes considerable additions to the few facts of Lalor's career hitherto known. She is enthusiastic, and her enthusiasm gives her eloquence, in her appreciation of one of whom she asserts, that "as patriot and worker for the national cause Fintan Lalor is second only to Wolfe Tone."

#### NOTICES OF NEW BOOKS.

"IRELAND: A STUDY IN NATIONALISM." By Francis Hackett. (B. W. Huebsch, New York. Dols. 2.)—The writer, a fervent Nationalist, from his transatlantic view-point surveys the old land and presents us with a singularly fair and honest consideration of its needs and wishes. He is delightfully frank and outspoken in his criticisms and cries aloud some home truths that are only hinted at or whispered with bated breath here. He possesses a fine style, his allegory of the fishermen and the bait is exceedingly well done and his enumeration of the "curses of the country" is both humourous and clever. His reading has apparently been enormous. Blue-books, statistics, reports, and practically every work of note issued on the question these past ten years, he has assimilated them all, and the result is a good deal more readable than many works of fiction. A sturdy democrat, he believes "the one hope for Ireland is a healthy materialism," and plumps for "full fiscal autonomy and dominion home rule." We had marked many passages for quotation, but space forbids, and we notice only one slight error at p. 340, where the name of Capt. W. A. Redmond is substituted for that of his late uncle, Major Willie.

FOUR SHOTS FROM DOWN. By Francis J. Bigger. (Sweeney, Belfast; 1s.)—The author, in this brochure, continues his praiseworthy work of garnering and recording the traditions and folk-lore of Ulster, which would otherwise undoubtedly be lost for ever. This time the



scene of his labours is the heart of Co. Down, and with the fireside stories he interweaves his great knowledge of local history and affairs, thus presenting narratives sometimes humorous, sometimes pathetic, but always interesting. One cannot but smile at the tale of Bradshaw's "Beetle" and all it gave rise to, and the pathetic story of Thomas Russell will linger for ever around the "Buck's Head" inn at Loughinisland. The illustrations are well done and materially aid the narrative by recalling half-forgotten, far-off things and scenes of long ago.

**THE PEDLAR'S WAY.** By Alicia Sheridan. (Elkin Mathews; 1s. 6d.)—There is much promise in these verses, pleasant and pathetic, by an Irish lady, bearer of a name once well-known in Anglo-Irish literature. She has a keen eye for the beauties of nature whether in her own land of golden gorse or the sultry climes east of Suez. Our favourite is "Lovers," of fancy and imagination all intact, though many others are musical and tender. But we must object to the cockneyism that rhymes "Cluricaun" with "born" in the title poem.

**THE COMING OF THE EARLS,** and Other Verse. By Florence M. Wilson. (The Candle Press; 1s.)—We warmly welcome this charming volume of verse from the accomplished pen of this northern poetess, and hope it is only the forerunner of many more. It is a small collection, but every poem is a pearl of great price. She uses the dialect and homely idioms of Ulster with rare success, and this, combined with her choice of subjects, her clarity of expression and real poetic power, lift her far above her contemporary singing sisterhood.

#### EDITOR'S GOSSIP.

Mr. Francis Hackett, whose recent work "Ireland: A Study in Nationalism" is reviewed elsewhere, was born in Kilkenny on 21st January, 1883, the youngest son of the late Dr. J. Byrne Hackett, a well-known physician in the Marble City, to whose memory the book is dedicated. He was educated at Clongowes Wood and emigrated to the States about eighteen years ago. He was for a time literary editor of the "Chicago Evening Post," and is now, and has been since its foundation four years ago, one of the editors of "The New Republic" of New York.

Art is truly cosmopolitan, so I am pleased to see that Count Plunkett, M.P., has been elected an Honorary Academician of the "Accademia Etrusca" of Cortona. What a contrast to the petty slight which the editor of "Who's Who" has thought to put upon him by excluding his name from recent issues. Surely such a standard work of reference should be above the political prejudices of the moment.

Mr. Lionel Fletcher, of Tupwood, Caterham, Surrey, has made a special study of the Irish token coinage of the seventeenth century, and has the best collection known. What is better, he is always willing to place his great knowledge at the service of any worker in

the historical fields. So if any reader, engaged in compiling the history of any Irish city or town, wishes for information in that branch of study which combines archæology, economics and family history, Mr. Fletcher will be happy to assist.

Mr. Michael MacDonagh, the well-known author and popular member of "The Gallery," is engaged on "A History of Home Rule," from its rise under Butt in 1870 till its recent demise. By the way, who first coined the phrase Home Rule? The "New Oxford English Dictionary" awards the credit to Prof. Galbraith, F.T.C.D., in 1869, but in Vol. IX., p. 29, I gave a reference to its use in 1860, and I have recently discovered that it is the title of the opening article in the number of "The Celt"—the organ of the Celtic Union, edited by Dr. Cane, of Kilkenny, for July, 1858. Can any reader give an earlier instance?

An excellent and useful Society of Irish Tradition has been formed in Dublin. It has already published the inaugural address by Mr. E. M. Stephens, B. L., and further publications from the following amongst others are in preparation:—"The Origin and Meaning of Irish Family Names," by John O'Donovan, edited by Marquis MacSwiney and Mrs. Florence Salkeld, "Nic Sgeul," by Douglas Hyde, "Traditions of a Western Abbey," by Colonel Maurice Moore, C.B., and a "Handlist of Irish Bibliography," by Marquis MacSwiney and C. P. Curran, B.L. Particulars may be obtained from Hon. Sec., 38 Upper Leeson Street, Dublin.

Lecturing on "The Irish Literary Renaissance" recently, at the Royal Institution London, Canon Hannay (George A. Birmingham) assured his audience that the question "What is Irish Literature?" did not exist for the English people. When Englishmen wrote histories of English literature they simply annexed all literary work done in the English language or any dialect thereof. Some time ago a series of books appeared called "English Men of Letters," and one volume dealt with Maria Edgeworth! This was an example of what he meant by saying that the English were an imperial race with an instinct for annexing things. The Irish were not an imperial people, they were rigidly and narrowly national. Far from wishing to claim what was not theirs, they actually disowned what they might fairly claim. There was a band of brilliant and famous writers whom the Irish might claim, but did not. These included Oscar Wilde and Bernard Shaw. "If we mention them at all in speaking of our literature, it is with a little sigh, as men might mention their illegitimate children, though indeed we have not cast them out. It is they who have chosen to throw in their lot with strangers, preferring London to the unsubstantial plaudits of the Dublin public. If we do not claim them you should not claim them either. The curse of their parentage is on them. They write as those who address aliens not their own people. For that reason they adopt the mental attitude illustrated by Max Beerbohm when he represented Mr. Shaw standing on his head."



"It was impossible," the lecturer concluded, "to date accurately the beginning of the Irish literary renaissance, but we should not go far wrong in saying that it started just when Parnell fell and died. It was open to the English to say that politics were never inspiring and were always a sordid game. In Ireland the case was different. Politics, like religion, had claimed the emotions, and had afforded them room to expand. Perhaps if the idealism had gone out of Irish politics twenty years sooner than it did and Ireland's young men had turned to letters in 1870 instead of 1890, they in Dublin, instead of we in London, would have enjoyed the genius of Mr. Shaw."

Mr. William O'Brien, freed from the burden of parliamentary duties, is again turning his attention to literature, and is engaged upon a work entitled "Edmund Burke as an Irishman." It will deal with one aspect of that great statesman's career which has received but scant attention from his many biographers, his devotion to the land of his birth and her interests. By the way, it is worthy of note that both Mr. O'Brien and Burke descend on the maternal side from a common ancestor—a Nagle of Co. Cork.

The National Library of Ireland is about to receive a splendid collection of documents and newspaper cuttings relating to the political and social condition of Ireland from 1850 to 1875. This large mass of material, numbering 142 large 4to. volumes, is presented by the Council of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland through the good offices of their honorary librarian, Mr. S. S. Millin. The collection made by Sir Thomas Larcom, Under-Secretary for Ireland from 1853 to 1863, contains a series of letters and memoranda drawn up for successive lords-lieutenant, from Lord Clarendon to Earl Spencer, as well as some important letters to and from Gladstone written at the time he was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Among the volumes, which are grouped and indexed under various headings, is to be found information on the Condition of Ireland, 1850 to 1879; Dublin Improvements, 1860-1862; the Constabulary, 1851-1868; the Atlantic Telegraph, 1857 to 1866; Strikes, Education, Agriculture Statistics, Irish Taxation, and a large amount of information dealing with the Wellington Testimonial in the Phoenix Park.

#### POST BAG.

"THE BATTLE OF AUGHRIM, or the Fall of Monsieur St. Ruth."—This is the title of one of the best-known and most popular Irish chap books printed alike in Dublin, Limerick, Belfast and Strabane. Gavan Duffy tells us in his "My Life," 1898, that when he was a youth in Monaghan in the "'twenties" it "was in the hands of every intelligent schoolboy in Ulster, who strode an imaginary stage as Sarsfield or Ginkle, according to his sympathies"; and Thackeray read it with delight in Galway, as we learn from his "Irish Sketch Book." It is written in heroic, rhymed verse, and has been reprinted times without number, but of late years without any author's name. Rev. John Graham in his edition of the work (1841) says the author,

William Ashton, was a student of T.C.D. and only 18 when he wrote it. A similar statement is made in C. H. Wilson's "Polyantha," which calls him William Ash, and adds that "he died young," probably before graduating, as Dr. Todd's "List of Graduates" contains no mention of the names of Ash, Aston or Ashton about the time. His age is mentioned in a rhymed prologue not to be found in recent editions:

"But should the play fall short, upon my truth  
 You may impute it to our author's youth,  
 Scarce tender twenty, faith a childish age,  
 To bring so great a subject on the stage.

\* \* \* \* \*

Pity his youth, and strive to save his play,  
 But if it must be damned, why damn away."

Mr. O'Donoghue in his well-known work attributes it to Robert Ashton or Aston. He gives the date of the first edition known to him as 1756, and asks "Could this writer be a connection of the Robert Aston who follows"? and who wrote various poems dated Dublin, 1725 and 1726, and "was, it has been stated, the author of 'The Battle of Aughrim'?" That they were one and the same is proved by the fact that Mr. G. W. Davis, bookseller, of Charing Cross Road, recently catalogued a first edition of the play dated Dublin, 1728, by Robert Ashton, dedicated to Lord Carteret, Lord Lieutenant 1724-30. It is certainly a spirited performance for a lad in his 'teens. Graham and Wilson may have only seen later editions without the author's name and depended on hearsay or tradition, which would account for their variations.

#### BIBLIO.

MICHAEL PYNE.—In the "Cork Archæological Journal" for 1905 the late Robert Day mentioned an octavo pamphlet of 83 pages, wanting title leaf, etc., so that the date and printer's name and address could not be ascertained. Day stated that the pamphlet was written by Michael Pyne, a native of Macroom, who resided at Dripsey Cross, and appeared to suggest that the title was "Biographical Records of the County Cork."

I have a copy (also wanting title leaf) of what appears to be another edition of this pamphlet. It contains 88 octavo pages (of which the last is blank) and bears internal evidence of having been published about the year 1847.

Pyne shows a strong aversion to the Repealers and the Catholic clergy. His little work is written in a quaint gossiping style, and he appears to have been constantly wandering up and down through the County Cork selling his topographical and genealogical pamphlets and collecting information and perhaps financial assistance for further editions. Speaking of his trip through Duhallow, he says: "I sold forty-five pamphlets at one shilling each, to the ladies and gentlemen, and respectable farmers through the county, of their names I will preface in my next work, and my sixpenny subscribers also, that



depends on my terms with the printer. . . . The Barony of Duhallow gave me reason to say a deal in their praise; and that will appear in my next work, all but two men that are similar to the strayed sheep from the flock; . . . your address to be directed to Michael Pyne, Woodview, near Cloyne. . . . I think the foregoing will be a good lift to fill an ope in my biographical history of this county."

Perhaps some reader could give the correct title of this pamphlet and the date and place of printing of the different editions.

SEAMUS O. CASAIDE.

LIEUT.-COLONEL JAMES E. McGEE was born near the village of Cushendall, Co. Antrim, in 1830—five years after his more distinguished brother, Thomas D'Arcy McGee. Educated at St. Peter's College, Wexford—to which town his family had removed in 1833, he joined the "Nation" staff in 1847, and became sub-editor of that journal shortly before its suppression in 1848. Gavan Duffy speaks of him as being at that time "a young man with plenty of capacity and abundant activity." Went to America in 1849, and assisted his brother in editing the New York "Nation," and, subsequently, the "American Celt." He continued journalistic work after his brother's removal to Montreal in 1857, studied law, and became a barrister. He joined the 69th (New York) Volunteers soon after the outbreak of the Civil War, and took part with that famous regiment in several engagements. He was especially distinguished for his bravery at the great battle of Antietam. Commanded two brigades during the early part of Grant's campaign. Eventually retired from active service, on account of wounds received in the storming of Petersburg, June 16, 1864. The historian of the Irish-American Brigade thus refers to him as a soldier: "Colonel McGee was very popular in the Army by reason of his agreeable, manly demanour. For gallantry, executive ability, and military tact he had few equals." After the cessation of the war McGee settled in New York and resumed his literary work. He wrote largely for the "Irish American" and other journals up to a short time before his death, which took place in St. Francis Hospital, N.Y., on April 21st, 1880.

His works, all published in New York, are: "Lives of Irishmen's Sons and their Descendants"; "Celebrated Sons of Irishmen"; "Priests and Poets of Ireland"; "Thumping English Lies—Froude's Slanders," 1872; "Sketches of Irish Soldiers," 1872; and "The Men of '48," 1874. The last three are in the British Museum.

Leeds.

(Rev.) WM. HICKEY.

HUGH BRYAN, *The Autobiography of an Irish Rebel*, 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  × 5, pp. 10 + 478 (printed by Archer, Belfast, 1866). A copy of this from the library of the late W. H. Patterson, of Holywood, has just come into my hands, and on the title page is written—I think in Mr. Patterson's writing—"By the Rev. Samuel Anderson, B.A., Dunmurry." As Mr. Patterson is very likely to have known this personally it might

be taken as fair evidence of the authorship. "Ireland in Fiction" gives the book amongst the list of anonymous books. The copy in the Belfast Free Library is dated 1867.

Belfast.

WM. M. KNOX.

**A CLEVER COMPOSITOR.**—In an article on "The Life and Labours of John O'Donovan, LL.D.," reprinted from "The Dublin Review," No. cii., 1862, anonymous, but written by Sir J. T. Gilbert at the instigation of Rev. C. P. Meehan, I came across the following interesting item. The "Dublin Penny Journal" was projected by a Scotch working printer named Francis Ross, then in the employment of Mr. John S. Folds, of Great Strand Street, Dublin, and to its early numbers the Rev. Cæsar Otway was the chief contributor. Its success was so great at the commencement that of some numbers upwards of seventy thousand copies were sold, and the publisher was obliged for a time to keep several of the hand printing presses then in use constantly working to supply the demand. Francis Ross possessed an extraordinary faculty for extemporizing articles, which he composed as he proceeded with the arrangement of the type, without the assistance of any copy, and in this mode he frequently contributed to the 'Christian Examiner,' on which he worked as a compositor in Mr. Fold's office."

TYPO.

**ROBERT PATTERSON** (Vol. X., p. 17).—It may interest your readers to know that the library formed by this gentleman's son, W. H. Patterson, of Strandtown, Belfast, consisting of 1,500 volumes, was sold by auction in September last. Some of the prices realized were as follows:—O'Laverty's "Down and Connor" (4 vols.), £3 7s. 6d.; Reeves' "Down and Connor" (2 vols. and graingerized), £2 15s.; "Annals of the Four Masters," £14; Harris's "Down," £2; Benn's "Belfast," 1823, and Joy's "Historical Collections," 1817, together, £2 10s.; 14 vols. of Early Belfast Printed Books, £4 12s. One interesting lot was a collection of the various works of John Ferrar, the historian of Limerick. Another consisting of his MSS., prose and verse, fell to Mr. Wm. Mayes, a well-known collector of this city.

Belfast.

J. W. K.

#### QUERIES AND REPLIES.

**KILRONAN.**—I have long sought in vain for a pamphlet entitled "A Statistical Account of the Parish of Kilronan in Co. Roscommon," by Charles O'Connor, of Belenagare. Have you or any of your readers ever happened on a copy?

Cork.

R. P. McD.

\*\*I am not aware if it ever was published separately, but the Preface to Shaw Mason's "Statistical Account or Parochial Survey of Ireland," Vol. I., informs us that "it has been published as a curiosity by Sir John Sinclair, in the Appendix to his Statistical Account of Scotland, and remains a singular monument of the state of Ireland at the time it was written" (circa 1773).

**EDWARD HAYES.**—Are any biographical details known of this gentleman, editor of the "Ballads of Ireland," an excellent compila-



tion which has gone through some half-dozen editions? Mr. O'Donoghue says he was an Irish barrister, but Gavan Duffy, to whom the work was dedicated, calls him ("Four Years of Irish History," p. 287) a young stockbroker in Leeds, and the preface is dated from 3 Blenheim Square in that city. J. F. Hogan in "The Irish in Australia" tells us that Hayes was long a resident in Melbourne, Victoria.

Queenstown.

J. Cn.

J. P. A. MADDEN, of Versailles, retired professor of the University of France, "issued several series of 'Lettres d'un Bibliographe' in Paris between 1868 and 1878. The first series bears the simple dedication 'To the Memory of Edward Byrne.'" (Bigmore and Wyman's Bibliography of Printing). Could any reader give me any other reference to this bibliographer? There is none in "The Madden Family."

Paris.

F. de B.

MICHAEL BROPHY.—In "Tales of Royal Irish Constabulary" (Dublin, 1896), by Michael Brophy, once a sergeant in the body, the author is given as having written "Carlow, Past and Present," "Forgotten Chapters of Carlow Local History," "Historical Reminiscences of Kildare." Information on author and these works will be welcomed.

43, Lower Gardiner Street, Dublin. WILLIAM MacARTHUR.

AUTHOR WANTED.—In a small volume of verse entitled "Visits of the Muse or a Leisure Hour," by James Russell English, Belfast, 1830, there is a poem on "Cottage Maria," who died young of a broken heart. A note tells us that "Maria of the Cottage was a young lady possessed of the finest feelings, and gave early proofs of superior genius. At the age of seventeen she produced a Romance in 4 vols. entitled "The Cottage of the Appenines," and published many pieces of considerable merit in the periodicals of the day." Could any reader give the name of the lady?

BELFAST.

IRISH LITERARY GAZETTE (Vol. X., p. 42).—In reply I may say that I have the first volume comprising the first 22 numbers, from 1st August till 26th Dec., 1857, with title-page and index. It bears the imprint, "Printed and Published in Dublin by Robert M. Chamney, 86 Middle Abbey Street; Published in Cork by Samuel M. Peck; and in Belfast by John Henderson." It was then a weekly, price twopence, but it is notified that on and after 2nd January, 1858, it would be increased from 16 to 24 pages, and the price raised to threepence. It evidently underwent further changes. Power says there were two volumes of it issued, and that it ended 29th May, 1858, evidently an error. Many of the articles and stories are signed, but no evidence of editorship is apparent.

J. S. C.

There is a copy of the "Irish Literary Gazette" in the Joly Collection in the National Library, Kildare Street, where I recently examined it. It is entitled "A Weekly Journal of National Literature, Criticism, Fiction, Industry, Science, and Art." It ran from 1857 to 1861. Vol. I. contains 348 pp. large 4to, closely printed; Vol. II. has

332 pp. Subsequent issues were reduced in format, number of pages and price, and appeared monthly. It contains some interesting matter, for instance tales by Robert Dwyer Joyce:

‘ Clongowes Wood.

S. B.

ANDERSON, JOHN CROSSLEY (Vol. X., p. 18) died at 8, The Mount, Mountpottinger, on 22 Oct., 1888, aged 80 years. “ He was the son of Drummond Anderson, proprietor of the ‘Belfast Commercial Chronicle,’ the leading Conservative Journal there, founded in 1805. On the death of the father, J. C. A., though only nineteen years old, took his place and edited and conducted the paper, which was printed at 10 and 12 Arthur Street. (These premises were again occupied by the ‘Belfast Mercury,’ a Liberal organ, and ultimately came into the possession of W. and G. Baird.) J. C. A. was a contributor to many magazines, and at various times acted as sub-editor of the Dublin ‘Daily Express,’ ‘The Irish Times,’ and the ‘Bristol Times.’ He contributed a number of thoughtful papers to the ‘Dublin University Magazine’ and other standard publications.” This cutting from a contemporary journal may interest Mr. MacArthur.

W. H. D.

“HIBERNIA DOMINICANA” (Vol. IX., p. 121).—It may add further information to your very interesting article on above to note that a copy with annotations in the author’s autograph is preserved in the library at Maynooth.

P.

THOMAS MOONEY.—I have a copy of “A History of Ireland, from Its First Settlement to the Present Time.” Two vols. Boston, Donahoe, 1885 (1652 pp.), by Thomas Mooney. The author is described on the title page as “late of the City of Dublin,” and is presumably the Thomas Mooney referred to in A. M. Sullivan’s “New Ireland,” as editing an extreme paper in San Francisco in Fenian days. This copy bears the stamp of a San Francisco bookseller, and would appear to be the author’s own copy. If so, he lived in London in his later years, and dabbled not wisely but too well in spiritualism. The book is copiously annotated in MS., some of the notes being signed “Thomas Mooney, London,” and all being in the same handwriting and in some instances the text is revised. For instance, on page 173 there is a reference to the finding near Belfast of a MS. volume of Osianic poems, to which there is this MS. note: “This is true, and that manuscript was written by Oisín. His spirit appeared to me on the first of September, 1873, and impressed me with his authorship of that manuscript.—Thomas Mooney, London.” Practically everybody of note in Irish history, from Oisín to Smith O’Brien, is similarly recorded as having appeared to him to verify some disputed point. He has a note, for instance, on page 1089: “Emmet told me 4 March, 1878, that he was 27 years of age at the date of his execution.” Can any reader supply any information about the author’s career?

P. S. O’HEGARTY.



"THE HARP" (Vol. X, p. 43).—In the Joly Collection in the National Library, Dublin, there are ten numbers of this periodical. No. 1, Vol. 1., is dated 2nd December, 1810. It contains 16 pp. large 8vo. Nos. 2-10 are large 4to or rather sq. folio; all have two cols. to a page. The last page of No. 10 is numbered 158.

E. R. McC. DIX.

THE BOOK OF LISMORE.—Could you give me any information regarding this old Irish manuscript?

Cork.

SENEX.

\*\* In the year 1814 Lismore Castle, Co. Waterford, the residence of the Duke of Devonshire, was being repaired and the workmen employed came upon a walled-up passage which they opened and explored. An old wooden box was found containing a crozier and a vellum MS. of 197 leaves,  $15\frac{1}{2}$  inches long by  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches wide. The parchment was soiled and damp, and knawed by rats and mice, but fortunately the text was preserved, containing the lives of nine ancient Irish saints and a few other fragments. It appears that the MSS. were written in the 15th century for Finghin MacCarthaigh Riabach and his wife Catherine, who was a daughter of Thomas, eighth Earl of Desmond, and was compiled from the Book of Leinster, the lost Book of Monasterboice and others, by at least three scribes, who are said to have made many mistakes in copying. Thirty-six pages seem to have been lost, many more are illegible from damp or because the writing has faded, or worst of all, because an illiterate man named O'Floinn re-wrote portions of it in 1816. The language is a mixture of old Irish, late middle, and modern forms. The MSS. were deciphered and translated into English by Whitley Stokes, and published in a volume of the "Anecdota Oxoniensa" in 1890.

JOHN O'DONOGHUE published in 1860 "Historical Memoir of the O'Briens," compiled from the Irish Annalists. Anyone who would give details about his life and works would confer a favour on me.

Flushing, New York.

J. D. H.

\*\* John O'Donoghue, historical writer and journalist, was born in Killarney in 1813, the eldest son of Daniel O'Donoghue. Educated at T.C.D., he was scholar there in 1831, graduated A.B. in 1833, and later proceeded to M.A. He was called to the Bar in 1837, and died in Dublin on 23rd March, 1893. D. J. O'Donoghue tells us "Poets of Ireland" that he was editorially or otherwise connected with the "Freeman's Journal" from 1838 to 1871, in whose columns several of his poems appeared, as well as in "The Irishman" of 1849, generally signed S.T.C.D. He was Dublin correspondent of the "Daily News," and contributed prose and verse to the "Dublin University Magazine." The obituary in the "Freeman's Journal" states that he published a volume of sketches of the Irish Bar about 1840, but I cannot trace it.

HENRY ALBERT HINKSON, R.M., died at his residence, Brook Hill, Claremorris, on Saturday, 11th January, after a week's illness. He was born in Dublin, 18th April, 1865, and educated at the High School. He gained a scholarship in T.C.D., and after study in Germany graduated M.A. in Royal University, with honours in 1890. He became senior classical tutor in Clongowes Wood College, and was called to the Bar at the Inner Temple in 1902. In 1893 he married Katherine Tynan, the well-known poet and novelist by whom he had two sons, who served with distinction during the war. In 1914 he was appointed R.M. for South Mayo. He was a frequent contributor to "The Bookman" and other journals, and published many short stories, besides the following works:—"Dublin Verses" (edited), in 1895; "Golden Lands and Girls," 1895; "O'Grady of Trinity," 1896; "Up for the Green," 1898; "When Love is Kind," 1898; "The King's Deputy," 1899; "The Point of Honour," 1901; "Sir Phelim's Treasures," 1901; "Fan Fitzgerald," 1902; "Silk and Steel," 1902; "Copyright Law," 1903; "The Wine of Love," 1904; "The Splendid Knight," 1905; "Golden Morn"; "The Castaways of Hope Island," 1907; "Father Alphonsus," 1908; "The King's Liege," 1909; "The House of the Oak," 1911; "The Considine Luck," "The Glory of War," 1912; "Gentleman Jack," 1913.

REV. PATRICK FIDELIS KAVANAGH, O.F.M., died on 18th December at the Franciscan Priory, Wexford, the city in which he was born in March, 1834. Educated locally and at Rome he was ordained in 1856. He officiated in America and Australia, and contributed verse to the newspapers there. He returned home in 1885, his fellow voyager being J. A. Froude, who mentions him in "Oceana." He published "Alcohol, A Sermon in Verse," 1893, but is best known by his "History of the Insurrection of 1798," which has gone through many editions.

#### FORTHCOMING WORKS.

Mr. George Moore is issuing—for private circulation only—a new book entitled "Avowals," through Werner Laurie. It will be ready about July, and will be uniform with his "Story Teller's Holiday." The price to subscribers before July will be £2 2s. 6d. post free, after then £3 3s. The edition will consist of 1,000 copies numbered and signed by the author. Mr. Moore is at present at work on the story of "Abelard and Heloise," and this will probably be the volume to follow "Avowals."

Lord Ernest Hamilton has in preparation with Messrs. Hurst and Blackett a history of "Elizabethan Ulster," based largely upon independent research among State Papers and other contemporary documents.

Mr. W. B. Yeats has two books in the press. One is poetry, "The Wild Swans at Coole"; the other is prose, "The Cutting of an Agate." (Macmillan.)